

# EXHIBIT E

DEPOSITION OF DEPUTY DEREK THOMS

THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
IN AND FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

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PATRICIA HIVES, individually and )  
as co-successor in interest to )  
Decedent Jacorey Calhoun, )  
 )  
Plaintiff, )  
 )  
v. ) CASE NO.:  
 ) 4:15-cv-02490-DMR  
COUNTY OF ALAMEDA, a municipal )  
corporation; DEREK THOMS, )  
individually and in his official )  
capacity as deputy for the )  
COUNTY OF ALAMEDA, et al. )  
 )  
Defendants. )  
 )  
 )  
M.C., by and through his guardian )  
ad litem, ARION GUILLORY, )  
 )  
Plaintiff, )  
 )  
v. )  
 )  
COUNTY OF ALAMEDA, a municipal )  
corporation; DEREK THOMS, )  
individually and in his official )  
capacity as deputy for the )  
COUNTY OF ALAMEDA, et al., )  
 ) CERTIFIED COPY  
Defendants. )  
 )

DEPOSITION OF DEPUTY DEREK THOMS

TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2016

REPORTED BY: ANGELICA R. GUTIERREZ, CSR NO. 13292

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1 A. I do. There was eleven.

2 Q. And that was ten years ago?

3 A. I graduated the academy in January 2005.

4 Q. January 2005?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. That was 28 weeks?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. I started in July 2004.

10 Q. Thank you for doing the math. I appreciate  
11 that.

12 Was that your first time being in an academy?

13 A. Yes, it was.

14 Q. Did you have any particular reason as to why  
15 you wanted to be an officer?

16 A. My brother was a police officer at the time.  
17 He no longer is, he's retired. But I would say that's  
18 probably the main reason.

19 Q. Your sister, Kristen, older and younger?

20 A. Younger. Started after me.

21 Q. Your brother, what's his name?

22 A. Same as my dad's, Arthur.

23 Q. Is he a Junior?

24 A. He's a Third.

25 Q. He's a Third.

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1 A. Police Officer Standard Training.

2 Q. What does that mean to you, what is the Police  
3 Officer Standard of Training?

4 A. They have a standard they want to meet. And  
5 in order to meet those certain standards -- you have to  
6 meet those certain standards before you can graduate  
7 the academy, depending on what area you're talking  
8 about the standards are different but --

9 Q. Do you have an understanding of -- that any  
10 person who seeks to be a law enforcement officer in the  
11 state of California has to graduate from a POST  
12 certified academy --

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. -- before you can begin practice as an officer  
15 in the state of California?

16 A. What do you mean practice, as --

17 Q. Enlistment or patrol as an officer.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You have to graduate --

20 A. Yes. Before you can be a police officer with  
21 a badge working on the streets or in the jails you have  
22 to graduate from a certified POST academy.

23 Q. That's the POST basic, right?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. I would imagine you would have achieved at

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1       least intermediate by now, is that right, the  
2       certificate?

3       A.     I believe I have my advanced.

4       Q.     So that would be true then, yes, you have your  
5       intermediate certificate as well?

6       A.     Yes.

7       Q.     But you now also have the advanced?

8       A.     I believe so, yes.

9       Q.     Okay. Did you apply for it, to get your  
10      advanced certificate?

11      A.     Yes.

12      Q.     Does it increase your pay for you have an  
13      advance certificate?

14      A.     A little bit, yes.

15      Q.     Makes it pretty important for you to sign up  
16      for it; is that right?

17      A.     Yes.

18      Q.     Okay. As I understand it, POST is divided up  
19      into several learning domains. Is that how you recall?

20      A.     Correct.

21      Q.     You recall in the academy being tested on  
22      different subject matter as to police practices?

23      A.     Yes.

24      Q.     Do you recall learning about specific subject  
25      matter such as the use of force?

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1 A. I do.

2 Q. Learning domain 20, as I recall it?

3 A. I don't remember the domain. But, yes, I  
4 remember use of force.

5 Q. Do you recall being tested or -- I'll ask you  
6 this: Do you recall being taught from the laws of  
7 arrest?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Learning domain 15, as I recall; is that  
10 right?

11 A. I don't recall the number, but yes.

12 Q. Okay. Do you recall there being about 42  
13 different learning domains?

14 A. Yes, that sounds about right.

15 Q. Do you recall being tested on each of those  
16 individually?

17 A. I remember being tested, yes.

18 Q. And you had to pass all those tests; is that  
19 right?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. In order be certified and trained in POST  
22 basic understanding of law enforcement practice; is  
23 that right?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. And so on, to get your intermediate

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1 certificate and your advanced certificate; is that  
2 right?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Do you have a college degree?

5 A. I do not.

6 Q. I understand that sometimes if you have a  
7 degree that might help expedite you getting your  
8 advanced or intermediate certificate; is that your  
9 understanding as well?

10 A. It would.

11 Q. Okay. All right.

12 So you started in February of '05?

13 A. No. I actually went through the academy as a  
14 non-affiliate, which means I paid my own way through  
15 the academy. And, from there, I went and applied to  
16 the different departments and I got hired by the  
17 Alameda County Sheriff's on 3/13/2006.

18 Q. Do you remember where else you applied?

19 A. I applied for Albany.

20 Q. Is that the police department?

21 A. Correct. Richmond PD. Yeah. And I think  
22 Alameda PD. And then, of course, the Sheriff's Office.

23 Q. Did you get a job offer from those other  
24 police departments?

25 A. I did not.

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1           A. No. But I think it only took me three months  
2 to get hired with them. So in December some time,  
3 maybe. I don't recall, though. I'm estimating.

4           Q. All right. When did you become a dog -- a  
5 trainer?

6           A. I'm not a dog trainer.

7           Q. I'm sorry. Not a trainer, a handler.

8           A. August 2010. Right around there. That is  
9 when I was hired as a handler.

10           And our -- when we actually went on patrol,  
11 after all the training and everything, it was about the  
12 beginning of October 2010.

13           Q. Had you had any training before those two  
14 months of training?

15           A. For canine?

16           Q. Yeah.

17           A. No.

18           Q. So you had to apply to be a dog handler,  
19 obviously; is that right?

20           A. Correct.

21           Q. Do you recall what the application process was  
22 like?

23           A. Yes.

24           Q. Tell me about it.

25           A. First you submit -- well, you have to wait

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1 before she became a member of the Alameda County  
2 Sheriff's Department?

3 A. I do not.

4 Q. But that's where she was purchased, from the  
5 Netherlands, through Alderhorst?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. I also know Tyson Kennels is another popular  
8 one.

9 A. I would venture to guess they probably do the  
10 same thing. They send people over to buy dogs from  
11 Europe, they bring them here where they, in turn, sell  
12 them to police departments.

13 Q. You're correct.

14 A. Then it's basically the same thing as Tyson.

15 Q. Okay.

16 You get Zina, she's three and-a-half years  
17 old, you begin training with her?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And during those two and-a-half months, that's  
20 between August of 2010 until October of 2010, you  
21 worked with Zina daily; am I right?

22 A. No. Your first month was more of a bonding  
23 phase. And then the five weeks prior to the beginning  
24 of October would have been my training academy, my  
25 canine academy. So the canine academy is only five

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1 weeks, but I got her in August, I believe, right around  
2 there. I had her for about a month before I started  
3 training.

4 Q. And when you say bonding phase that is  
5 creating that attachment that I talked about a little  
6 bit earlier, right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Meaning the canine or the animal gets used to  
9 you, who you are, your voice and things like that; is  
10 that right?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. You also will begin, I guess, associating  
13 yourself with the canine and understanding how the  
14 canine responds to certain situations; is that right?

15 A. In that first month?

16 Q. Just generally. Not in regards to police  
17 work. Just generally.

18 A. Yeah, that's fair to say.

19 Q. Okay. And then, after that, you go into  
20 actual police work training; is that right?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. Do you recall who the sergeant was who helped  
23 train with the police-work training and your  
24 canine-handling training?

25 A. The sergeant of the canine unit at the time

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1 would have been Sergeant Horn, H-O-R-N.

2 Q. Do you know Sergeant Horn's first name?

3 A. Wesley.

4 Q. W-E-S-L-E-Y?

5 A. I think so.

6 Q. Okay. And is that -- I would imagine that's a  
7 he.

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. He led the training for five weeks you were  
10 involved in; is that right?

11 A. He isn't necessarily leading. You just asked  
12 who the sergeant was of the canine -- of the canine  
13 unit at the time.

14 So once a month we have a trainer named  
15 Darrell Gott from LASO. He comes up and does our  
16 training.

17 And then the other month or the other --  
18 sorry, the other training day in the month; there are  
19 two training days per month, sometimes three but  
20 usually two, and we just kind of put together drills,  
21 training exercises amongst ourselves.

22 Q. Do you put these training exercises together?

23 A. No. Usually it wasn't me. It would be a  
24 senior handler, kind of putting together drills 'cause,  
25 you know, they have been used to it. Basically do the

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1 same drills Darrell would be doing, just he's not  
2 there; he's there every other training day.

3 Q. Is there any type of manual that you use  
4 during that time that helps you understand what drills  
5 you needed to be practicing on?

6 A. No. A lot of it is from experience, going and  
7 doing things, running into -- maybe one of the handlers  
8 ran into something that happened during the week while  
9 he was on duty and wanted to revisit or share with the  
10 other people. You know, just kind of stuff like that.

11 Q. Okay. Some dogs are trained to find and bark  
12 and some are trained to find and bite. Are you  
13 familiar with the difference between the two strategies  
14 of training types?

15 A. Of course, yes.

16 Q. What was Zina trained to do?

17 A. Find and bark.

18 Q. Is there a particular command -- I'll ask  
19 this: Do you speak in English when you give a command  
20 to Zina?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Do you speak in what, Dutch, or something like  
23 that?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. What's the command you give to Zina to find

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1 and bark?

2 A. It would be "revere".

3 Q. Like Paul? Not spelled the same?

4 A. Not spelled the same way, yes, but like Paul  
5 Revere; except for there's no lanterns.

6 Q. All right. And when I say find and bark what  
7 does that mean to you?

8 A. When they find the suspect they bark at them.

9 Q. Is Zina only trained to find suspects?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. I mean -- and I ask that because you tell me  
12 that you have some training around drug recognition,  
13 and I'm wondering if any of that translates into the  
14 work that you do with Zina.

15 A. Okay. Like we don't use them to find people  
16 besides suspects.

17 But yes, narcotics, she is trained to find  
18 narcotics, also. I misunderstood your question.

19 Q. Okay. So she can find narcotics.

20 Anything else? Explosives?

21 A. Yes. She -- no, not explosives. But, yes,  
22 there are other things as far as like article searches.

23 Q. What is an article search?

24 A. Essentially, if you had somebody running and  
25 they threw a gun, you know, they're running through a

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1 park and they throw a gun she could go out and locate  
2 the gun for us. Anything that was touched, basically,  
3 by a human. She could locate keys, anything like that.  
4 But it has to be in a foreign area, obviously, she  
5 couldn't come into this room because we're all touching  
6 stuff in here. You know, fields, hillsides; mainly  
7 stuff like that, backyards that people haven't been in  
8 recently.

9 Q. Okay. How recent is recently?

10 A. I mean, if nobody was in there all day or I  
11 mean even a couple of hours. Depends on the amount of  
12 time, what we're looking for. If, you know, someone  
13 had just run through there and dropped something and  
14 nobody's been in the backyard for a couple of hours  
15 that's fine, she should be able to find it then.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. It's variables.

18 Q. Okay. So the article search, she can find  
19 narcotics. Any other special training with Zina as far  
20 as her utilization as a canine?

21 A. No, that's about it.

22 Q. Okay. You are familiar with find and bite; is  
23 that right?

24 A. I am.

25 Q. Is there a command that you give to Zina to

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1 bite?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And what is that command?

4 A. There are two different commands, if you want  
5 me to explain both.

6 Q. Please.

7 A. I would use the command "stellin",  
8 S-T-E-L-L-I-N, if somebody was running and I was  
9 chasing somebody. And to direct her I would yell  
10 "stellin" and she would run out and bite the person  
11 running.

12 And "fas", F-A-S, is a general term for  
13 biting. So, essentially, if you were standing in front  
14 of me, and we were in an altercation, that would be the  
15 time to say fas. But fas can be used -- I can give her  
16 this and tell her fas and she'll put it in her mouth  
17 and bite. It's kind of a general term for the  
18 immediate area. And stellin is go out and bite.

19 Q. Okay. It's my understanding that canine  
20 police dogs are really taught bite and hold technique;  
21 is that how Zina was trained as well?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And a dog bites and latches on and doesn't let  
24 go; is that right?

25 A. Correct.

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1 Q. At least that's how they are trained?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. And that's how Zina was trained?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And you participated in training like this  
6 with Zina?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. And approximately how many times did you say  
9 you participated in this type of training with Zina?

10 A. I mean that would be a guess. I mean at the  
11 time the incident we had been doing it for four years.  
12 We do at least every other week with full, you know, 8  
13 to 12 hour days of training. Plus in between training  
14 on duty with other deputies.

15 I mean it would be -- what I would give you  
16 would be a complete guess.

17 Q. Would it be fair to say that you trained a lot  
18 with Zina in regards to the biting and techniques  
19 around biting; is that right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Does it -- if you say stellin does she do a  
22 different type of biting than the bite and hold?

23 A. No.

24 Q. What about "fas"?

25 A. No.

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1 Q. It's still meant to bite and hold; is that  
2 right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Stellin she actually has to go and retrieve  
5 something that's running or trying to escape, correct?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. Do you have records around your regular  
8 training with Zina?

9 A. Yes. I don't personally have them but yes,  
10 there are records.

11 Q. In the department; is that right?

12 A. There should be.

13 Q. And you mentioned that at the time of this  
14 incident involving Mr. Calhoun you had been training  
15 with Zina for approximately four years; is that right?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. And you said every other week specifically  
18 related to biting; is that right?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. As I understand it, canine handlers train with  
21 their canine partners every day; is that right? Is  
22 that similar to how you train?

23 A. I mean there are days where you're obviously  
24 busy where you can't -- it's just not possible. When,  
25 you know, when you first get them a lot of training in

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1 apparent that he saw it. I guess so.

2 Q. Okay. When you say the primer had been  
3 dented, as I understand it, on the cartridge, there's a  
4 primer behind the actual bullet, right? Where the  
5 hammer strikes it and sends the bullet flying; is that  
6 right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. So it's your understanding that the primer of  
9 the cartridge had a dent in it, which would suggest  
10 that the hammer had struck it, correct?

11 A. Suggests, yes.

12 Q. Okay.

13 Do you know if that person died?

14 A. No, no. They didn't. They actually weren't  
15 even hit, so --

16 Q. Okay. Did you ever receive any counseling in  
17 regards to that incident?

18 A. No. No. I don't think so. No, I didn't.  
19 No, I didn't.

20 Q. What about besides this incident involving  
21 Mr. Calhoun while you were a dog handler, have you ever  
22 pointed your gun or drawn your gun and pointed your  
23 weapon at anyone?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Again, too often to recall?

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1           A.    Less often as a handler, because my main goal,  
2 my main job is dog handler, handle the dog.  So pulling  
3 my gun out and -- while handling the dog, so pulling my  
4 gun out wasn't as much of regular occurrence.  As --  
5 for example, the deputy is behind me every time we  
6 search.  They have their guns out but I don't.  So it  
7 would have been would have been less because of the  
8 fact that I had the dog to deal with.

9                   And I have to use the restroom.  I don't know  
10 if this is a good time to break.

11                  MR. LACY:  Let's take a break.

12                   (Recess taken from 2:18 p.m. to 2:27  
13 p.m.)

14                  MR. LACY:  Q.  All right.  So last we were  
15 talking about your time as a dog handler where you're  
16 at the Eden Township and you mentioned that you draw  
17 your gun a lot less there; is that right?

18                  A.  As a handler, yes, I did.

19                  Q.  As a handler, because your primary duties were  
20 to handle the dog; is that right?

21                  A.  Correct.

22                  Q.  Now, when I asked you a little bit earlier you  
23 said that most of the time you let the dog do the  
24 searches off the leash.  Is that still the same case,  
25 that you would not have your gun drawn while your dog

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1 Q. Okay.

2 A. But, yeah, so that's usually the way it's  
3 done.

4 Q. Okay. Do you recall how you responded to the  
5 call for service?

6 A. Yeah. So I said I would be en route.

7 Q. Did you go code 3?

8 A. No. No. I just drove, I believe.

9 Q. Do you know what code 3 is?

10 A. Yes, I know.

11 Q. Would you tell us, please?

12 A. Code 3 is lights and sirens, emergency  
13 responding.

14 In this case they didn't call for it.

15 Q. In this circumstance they didn't call for a  
16 code 3 response as far as you recall, right?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. You drove in your regular manner, stopping at  
19 traffic lights, obeying traffic signs, to the call for  
20 service?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. What type of vehicle or patrol vehicle were  
23 you driving, what vehicle?

24 A. Crown Victoria.

25 Q. Okay. And is that a -- that's a canine

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1 vehicle, I would imagine?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Would that mean that it has a certain things  
4 in that particular vehicle specifically for deputies or  
5 officers like yourself who work with canines; is that  
6 right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Would that mean that there's a fence or  
9 something like that that prevents the canine from  
10 jumping in the front seat?

11 A. Yes, there's a kennel in the back. It's a --  
12 not your traditional square kennel, its a kennel  
13 designed for the rear of a Crown Victoria.

14 Q. How is it different than the regular kennel or  
15 traditional kennel that you just talked about?

16 A. It's designed for a car, so there's guards on  
17 the windows. It's not all connected. There's guards  
18 on the windows, guards on the back window, there's a  
19 platform and then a divider between the front and the  
20 back.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. The front seat and backseat. But it takes up  
23 the whole backseat and it's form fitting to the  
24 backseat.

25 Q. Okay. When you got there do you recall

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1 parking or where you parked at?

2 A. Yeah. I parked right in the middle of the  
3 street. I don't remember which street, but it was the  
4 same street as the Volvo the suspect was driving. But  
5 if you had a map I could show you which street.

6 Q. We'll get there.

7 A. Yeah, I remember where I parked.

8 Q. Okay. You parked in the street and what did  
9 you do? What was the first thing that you did?

10 A. I found out who was in charge.

11 Q. Okay. And how did you go about doing that?

12 A. By asking the Oakland police officer who's in  
13 charge.

14 Q. Did they tell you who was in charge?

15 A. Yeah. They either pointed or gave me his  
16 name, directed me towards a sergeant who was on duty  
17 that night.

18 Q. Do you recall how that particular sergeant  
19 appeared, any descriptors?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Was he tall?

22 A. I don't remember what he looks like at all.

23 Q. Was he taller than you?

24 A. I don't know.

25 Q. How tall are you?

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1 A. Me, I'm 6'.

2 Q. And you don't recall whether he was taller  
3 than you?

4 A. No.

5 Q. You don't recall if he was heavyset?

6 A. I think he was a little heavyset but I'm not  
7 100 percent certain on that.

8 Q. Do you recall if he was older than you?

9 A. I think he was older than me, yes.

10 Q. Do you recall if he was a white male?

11 A. He's either a white white or Hispanic.

12 Q. It wasn't African American --

13 A. No.

14 Q. -- Asian or Chinese, something like that?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Okay. Do you recall what this particular  
17 officer said to you when you first approached him?

18 A. The sergeant?

19 Q. Yes.

20 I apologize. Yes. To me you're all officers.

21 A. I remember the gist of the conversation but I  
22 don't remember the exact conversation.

23 Q. What is the gist of the conversation that you  
24 had with the sergeant?

25 A. I asked him what was going on and he then

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1 explained to me that it was a home invasion, not a  
2 carjacking, where there was a pistol whipping involved.  
3 The suspect was last seen jumping over a white fence.

4 I remember asking him how many suspects,  
5 because on the Volvo that the suspect allegedly exited  
6 from, the passenger door was open. So I asked how many  
7 suspects. He said there was only one.

8 I inquired about the passenger door being open  
9 and he told me it was because they had searched inside  
10 the vehicle, done a cursory search of the vehicle for  
11 the weapon that was used during the crime; the firearm,  
12 I should say, during the crime.

13 I think we talked about the search team, the  
14 amount of people on the search team. How many I wanted  
15 with me.

16 And we talked about -- I told him that --  
17 about the canine announcements, that I wasn't going to  
18 do a canine announcement because the suspect was armed  
19 and dangerous and had just pistol whipped somebody. As  
20 far as I knew, it had just occurred.

21 That was pretty much the gist of it.

22 Q. Okay. All right. You said you talked about  
23 the search team, how many people were going to be on it  
24 and how many people you wanted on it.

25 A. Correct.

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1           Q.    Was there some difference between how many  
2    people were on the team and how many people you wanted  
3    on the team?

4           A.    I just wanted to make sure there wasn't too  
5    many people.  Too many people isn't good for the dogs,  
6    more people talking, more people moving.  So I wanted  
7    to make sure that he understood I didn't want twenty  
8    people on a search team.  I wanted me, my two guys and  
9    I think three of their guys.

10          Q.    Okay.  You said your two guys, what two guys  
11    are those?

12          A.    Deputy Nguyen and Deputy Corey.

13          Q.    Is there a reason why you wanted those two  
14    deputies?

15          A.    They were already on-scene with me.  This is  
16    once we were on-scene, they were already there.

17           Obviously, I'm going utilize my own guys, we  
18    worked together.

19          Q.    I don't know.  Why?  OPD guys might be better.

20          A.    That's what I'm telling you, I wanted them  
21    because we worked together.  I'm familiar with them,  
22    they are familiar with me.

23           You know, Oakland PD, they have their rules  
24    and policies, we have our rules and policies.  We have  
25    the way we do things and they have the way they do

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1 things, you know. And I'm not too familiar with the  
2 way they do things but I know it's different than the  
3 way we do things.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. I just wanted to make sure that my two guys  
6 were with me and no more than three or four from their  
7 side to go with us.

8 Q. Was there any direction given to them about  
9 how they should be conducting the search or assisting  
10 in conducting the search?

11 A. Generally. I don't recall specifically what  
12 we talked about. But, generally, as the canine  
13 handler, I dictate where the search goes, where we  
14 start and where we end. Unless they have, you know --

15 What I'm doing with an outside agency is a  
16 little bit different. Normally, if I'm doing it from  
17 my agency I mainly determine when it starts, when it  
18 stops. At another agency I give them the leeway of  
19 determining when it stops, when they are done. I don't  
20 know what their call volume is. Obviously, Oakland has  
21 a higher call volume than us. They might have to  
22 leave. So if they want to call the search they can  
23 call the search. But as long as I'm doing the search,  
24 you know, I direct where we go during the search.

25 If they want to end it at any given time they

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1 can end it. But it will be ended along my path that I  
2 have chosen.

3 Q. You communicated this to that sergeant?

4 A. Yeah. I believe we talked about, you know,  
5 where to start. And I think he mentioned something  
6 about an officer saying he didn't make it past this  
7 point, a point that he had pointed out to me. And  
8 that's, from what I understand, where they wanted to  
9 stop, which -- that's fine with me.

10 Q. Do you recall what point that was, as you sit  
11 here right now, when you say that he didn't make it  
12 past this point?

13 A. I can recall, yes.

14 Q. Can you describe it for me in your mind?

15 A. I believe it was the yard where the RV was  
16 parked. The fence line -- I don't know the direction,  
17 but if you are facing the RV the fence to the left, I  
18 believe, is where they said he didn't make it past  
19 here.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. So --

22 Q. Do you know what type of fence that was? Was  
23 it a wooden fence, a metal fence?

24 A. Sorry. Did I know at the time or now?

25 Q. Do you know now?

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1       be -- if somebody is hiding behind a door she'll cram  
2       her nose into the doorframe and really start breathing  
3       and sucking in the air. More excitement, barking,  
4       scratching. Sometimes it's as simple as a head turn.

5           Q. When you were inside the home did Zina give  
6       you any signs like this?

7           A. No.

8           Q. How long were you in the home?

9           A. I don't recall.

10          Q. Five minutes?

11          A. Probably less than that. Three to five  
12        minutes, I would say.

13          Q. Okay. You said that you told the sergeant  
14        that you weren't going to give a canine announcement;  
15        is that right?

16          A. Correct.

17          Q. And he told you that that was okay?

18          A. Yes.

19          Q. Did you give him a reason as to why you  
20        weren't going to give a canine announcement?

21          A. I did.

22          Q. And why is that?

23          A. Our policy allows us to, if we're searching  
24        for armed and dangerous suspects, that we don't have to  
25        give a canine policy or a canine announcement.

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1 Q. That's your policy?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. If you are searching for potentially armed  
4 and/or dangerous suspects you don't give an  
5 announcement?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. Okay. All right.

8 What's the next area that you searched after  
9 you searched this home?

10 A. From what I remember, there was like some  
11 front yard of these -- this weird, commercial apartment  
12 complex thing going on. And we would have worked -- I  
13 believe we started at the first apartment and we  
14 worked -- for lack of -- forgetting which direction is  
15 which over there -- to the right. If you are facing  
16 the apartment we worked to the right of that. And then  
17 around -- and then, I believe, it's to the Alcalanes  
18 side. So we -- for the first part we went to the right  
19 and we moved all the way towards the Alcalanes.

20 Q. So you actually went to Alcalanes and were  
21 searching those yards?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Would those be front yards?

24 A. Those were the front yards to the backside.

25 Those are backyards that are fenced off. So the front

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1 Q. 30 seconds each yard?

2 A. About. And then the time to walk around.

3 Q. Okay. And then you got to the front. Did you  
4 take more time in the front than in the Alcalanes side?

5 A. Not so much in the front but in the rear we  
6 were taking more time. There was less spots to hide in  
7 front, in the front of the houses. There was more  
8 hiding in the rears. So we wouldn't have spent as much  
9 time in the front as in the rear. But, depending on --  
10 like one house had a big wrought iron gate that was --  
11 cars. And we searched that a little bit more than we  
12 would the other front yards.

13 Q. How did you access the rear yards of the homes  
14 on the Alcalanes side?

15 A. With the permissions of the homeowners. One  
16 had to be unlocked. I think a couple we could just  
17 walk right back there.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. But with their permission, depending how to  
20 get back there.

21 Q. Okay. So somebody would have knocked and  
22 announced, hey, we're here, we need to search; or  
23 something like that?

24 A. Exactly. We don't want to go into people's  
25 backyards with them not knowing and without their

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1 permission.

2 Q. That's generally why you give an announcement,  
3 right?

4 A. For the other people? Yeah.

5 Q. Yeah.

6 A. Yeah. For the suspect and the other people.

7 Q. 'Cause there could be normal citizens back  
8 there and you don't want your dog to find and attack or  
9 bite somebody who is innocent of any crime, correct?

10 A. Correct. The announcement is sort of more  
11 geared toward the suspects because we knock on people's  
12 doors and talk to them and make contact with them  
13 before we go into their property, you know. So --

14 But the announcement is more geared towards  
15 the suspect in giving up, but it does alert citizens to  
16 the presence of a police dog. But it's more important,  
17 you know, if someone is sitting in there watching the  
18 Warriors play-off game they might not hear my  
19 announcement. So it's important to me to ensure the  
20 safety of the citizens that we knock on each door and  
21 physically make contact with them to one, notify them  
22 of our presence. Ask permission to be on their  
23 property. And, you know, if there's dogs in their  
24 backyard, small dogs, big dogs, I don't want my dog  
25 getting hurt, I don't want their animals getting hurt.

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1 because they know what to ask. So -- there's a list of  
2 questions that I like to have asked.

3 Q. Are there any children here in the backyard,  
4 in the house, in the tree house or anything like that?

5 A. Correct.

6 Is there anyone living back there? Is there  
7 anyone in your house? Is there anyone that's supposed  
8 to be in your backyard right now? Do you have any  
9 animals back there? If so, can you bring them in? Are  
10 they caged? You know, what's going on is all sorts of  
11 questions that we would ask prior to entering on  
12 someone's premises.

13 Q. On this occasion, on August 3rd, and when you  
14 came around to the Alcalanes side, any of those doors  
15 that you knocked on, did they indicate that there was  
16 somebody in their backyard that was supposed to be  
17 there?

18 A. Actually out and about in the backyard, no.  
19 But one of the residents said their son, I believe,  
20 lived in the backyard in a detached apartment, if you  
21 will.

22 Q. Yeah.

23 A. So I remember -- I think they called him on  
24 the phone and he came out of the backyard.

25 Q. Okay.

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1 A. So I believe that was the only one.

2 Q. Okay. So besides that, the yards you were  
3 searching, as far as you understood, were supposed to  
4 be empty?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. And that is on the Alcalanes side, correct?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. After you finished searching the front part of  
9 the Alcalanes side, what do you do?

10 MR. MURPHY: Are you talking about that  
11 apartment building?

12 MR. LACY: Q. So after the apartment  
13 building, it's my understanding that you go yard to  
14 yard on the Edna side; is that right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And you circle around and come to the  
17 Alcalanes side and you search the front yards, and then  
18 the rear yards of the homes on the Alcalanes side; is  
19 that correct?

20 A. Correct. But we do front yard, rear yard of  
21 each house. We don't search all the front yards and  
22 then move into the back yards. It's front yard, rear  
23 yard; front yard, rear yard.

24 Q. Clearing each home as you go down the street?

25 A. Correct. Each lot.

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1 Q. Okay. Each lot.

2 And all those lots were clear, right?

3 A. On the Alcalanes side?

4 Q. Yes.

5 A. I think, technically, they are all Alcalanes  
6 addresses, so one wasn't clear. No.

7 Q. Which one was that?

8 A. I don't remember the address of it. The one  
9 with the RV in it.

10 Q. Was that one of the first ones you searched on  
11 the Alcalanes side?

12 A. No. I think it was the third. Second, third,  
13 somewhere right around there. There wasn't very many  
14 houses we searched. I think there was only four or  
15 five.

16 Q. Okay. What gave you the understanding  
17 initially that the backyard --

18 Let me ask you this: Was it the front yard or  
19 the backyard?

20 A. For Corey?

21 Q. The suspect.

22 A. Oh, it's kind of -- the set up. I guess it's  
23 technically the backyard he would have been in,  
24 technically.

25 Q. That's where you initially realized there's

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1 possibly a suspect in the backyard; is that right?

2 A. Yes. But not in the backyard of the house we  
3 were in.

4 Q. In the backyard of another house?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. What gave you the understanding that there may  
7 be somebody in the backyard of another house?

8 A. Zina.

9 Q. What did Zina do?

10 A. She became really animated, running up and  
11 down the fence line. I don't know if she was barking  
12 or not, just kind of whining; trying to jump over the  
13 fence.

14 Q. Had you given any other command besides the  
15 revere command at this point?

16 A. Up until we were in that yard?

17 Q. Until Zina started becoming very animated, had  
18 you given any other command?

19 MR. MURPHY: Throughout the entire search?

20 THE WITNESS: I'm not sure.

21 MS. LACY: Q. Okay. You wouldn't have given  
22 the -- what is it? The fas command, would you?

23 A. No.

24 Q. There was nothing for Zina to bite?

25 A. Correct. Yeah.

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1           A. I think the incident happened about  
2 6:00 o'clock in the morning, so that the end of it. It  
3 would have been right around 6:00 o'clock in the  
4 morning.

5           Q. Okay. When Zina starts becoming animated,  
6 kind of breathing a little bit heavier, and you said it  
7 seemed as if she wanted to jump over the fence; is that  
8 right?

9           A. Yes.

10          Q. What did you do?

11          A. Then I told her to lay down.

12          Q. And what else?

13          A. And then we had a -- me and another Oakland  
14 officer had conversation of what to do next.

15          Q. Do you recall which officer that was?

16          A. No, I don't.

17          Q. Do you recall if it was the sergeant that you  
18 spoke with earlier?

19          A. I don't think he came on the search with us.

20          Q. Okay. So he remained on outer perimeter of  
21 these homes?

22          A. I believe so.

23          Q. Okay.

24          A. To my knowledge.

25          Q. Okay. You spoke with an OPD officer about

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1 what you are doing to do after you told Zina to lay  
2 down?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Did you explain to this OPD officer what you  
5 had observed about Zina?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And what did you tell them?

8 A. That I believed that there was somebody in the  
9 backyard of the -- the next backyard over from us.

10 Q. Okay. And --

11 A. Backyard with the RV.

12 Q. Okay. And how did you get that impression? I  
13 mean how did you communicate that to them? Did you go  
14 whisper in a corner or, "hey, somebody's over there";  
15 you point. Or what do you do? I mean you don't want  
16 to alert the criminal, right?

17 A. It was probably more of a low conversation,  
18 low-volume conversation, I would say. I wouldn't be  
19 yelling it.

20 Q. Okay. What did this officer tell you, what  
21 you guys should do?

22 A. I believe they gave him some options as far  
23 as -- I think that I proposed to him that we rip the  
24 fence boards down between the two houses and send Zina  
25 in that way. And then we would follow.

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1 A. Revere.

2 Q. Okay. Which means to find and bark?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. When you gave Zina the command to lay down did  
5 she listen?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Immediately?

8 A. I believe so.

9 Q. What's the command to lay down?

10 A. Off.

11 Q. Off? Like turn it off?

12 A. I think it's a spelled different way.

13 Q. I would imagine it is.

14 Okay. Then she lays down. She lays down  
15 until you give her another command; is that right?

16 A. Is that what happened?

17 Q. Yes.

18 A. No.

19 Q. What happened?

20 A. She layed down. And then she jumped the  
21 fence.

22 Q. She jumped the fence on her own?

23 A. Yeah. When we started going towards her she  
24 jumped the fence.

25 Q. You didn't give Zina the command to jump the

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1 fence?

2 A. No, I did not.

3 Q. Is that unusual for Zina?

4 A. No. When we all started moving towards her I  
5 would assume it's time to get up and go. Also, you  
6 know, I don't know what she heard in the backyard. She  
7 may have heard something.

8 But it wouldn't be out of the ordinary -- it  
9 would be out of the ordinary if I told her to lay down  
10 and I stood there and she got up and moved, but it  
11 wouldn't be out of the ordinary if I told her to lay  
12 down and then we all started moving towards her and  
13 then she got up. That would not be out of the  
14 ordinary.

15 Q. That's expected?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. She knows -- she's trained that when -- after  
18 you tell her to lay down if you move towards her in a  
19 large group of people that she can get up?

20 A. Yeah. I allow her to, yes.

21 Q. Okay. She gets up and jumps the fence in a  
22 single bound, as they say; is that right?

23 A. I believe so.

24 Q. Do you have an estimate of how long it took  
25 Zina to jump that fence?

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1 Q. Okay. You walked up to the fence.

2 Do you draw your gun?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Why not?

5 A. 'Cause I have people with guns out already.

6 Q. Do you recall how many officers were in that  
7 yard with you?

8 A. There was my two guys and, I think, three  
9 Oakland officers. I think.

10 Q. Okay. You walked up to the fence. What do  
11 you do when you walk up to the fence?

12 A. Look over.

13 Q. You can look over this fence?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. How did you look over?

16 A. On my tippy-toes.

17 Q. You had to get on your tippy-toes? So would  
18 that mean that the fence was about 6 feet high?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. Did you have to pull yourself up any?

21 A. I don't remember.

22 Q. Okay. What did you see after you got on your  
23 tippy-toes?

24 A. I saw the subject running away from our  
25 location. So -- it's easier with a diagram, but -- so

## DEPOSITION OF DEPUTY DEREK THOMS

1       we are facing north, I think, towards the RV. So we  
2       are in the backyard of one house, past the RV. Now  
3       we're looking into the backyard with the RV. So that  
4       direction.

5                   So it would have been to my left I saw the  
6       suspect running, with my dog, behind the RV.

7       Q.     You saw the suspect running with your dog?

8       A.     Correct.

9       Q.     When you say running with your dog, did they  
10      have a job together? What were they doing?

11      A.     It looked like she was biting him.

12      Q.     So the dog was biting him. Could you see  
13      where she was biting him at?

14      A.     To me it looked like one of the arms.

15      Q.     Could you tell how this subject was dressed at  
16      this time?

17      A.     Dark clothing.

18      Q.     Did he appear to have on jeans or slacks,  
19      dress shoes?

20      A.     That would be -- I don't really remember.

21                   MR. MURPHY: Don't guess.

22                   THE WITNESS: I don't really remember.

23                   What my thought was when I looked at him, I  
24      just remember seeing dark clothing.

25                   MR. LACY: Q. Did anything stick out to you

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1 about the way the subject was dressed?

2 A. The way he was dressed? No.

3 Q. Okay. Did you see the subject's hands?

4 A. No.

5 Q. You said it appeared that Zina was biting one  
6 of his arms?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. Is there a particular place on the arm that  
9 Zina was biting him?

10 A. From where I was, the forearm.

11 Q. Do you have a recollection of which forearm it  
12 was?

13 A. I believe it was the left.

14 Q. Okay. Zina was biting him on the left  
15 forearm. Could you see was Zina on his left side then?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Or was Zina on the right-side front biting the  
18 forearm?

19 A. So, from my angle, I could see Zina with her  
20 back two paws on the ground, her front two paws off the  
21 ground, which is the reason that I am arriving at the  
22 possibility that she was biting him. I could not see  
23 'cause it was so dark, I could not see what was  
24 actually going on, but I could see -- there was a  
25 little bit of light behind them, I could see that her

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1 front two paws were off the front and her back paws  
2 were still on the ground, so that would suggest to me  
3 that she was biting him.

4 Q. Okay. Did you give Zina any command to bite?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Was that normal, for her to search and bite  
7 someone?

8 A. So the way it works is, with the guard and  
9 bark is, if the suspect is surrendering and giving up  
10 and not moving she will bark at him. If they attempt  
11 to run or attack them or me she will engage them with a  
12 bite.

13 So when I looked over the fence he was running  
14 and she was either trying to bite him or had bitten  
15 him, I'm not sure if she was actually biting him at  
16 that time.

17 Q. It appeared as if she may be?

18 A. Right. But he wasn't screaming either, and  
19 everybody she's bit screams. So, you know, one word or  
20 another, you know, they make a noise. He wasn't making  
21 any noise so I'm not 100 percent sure.

22 Q. When you peeked over the fence did you give my  
23 command to Zina to search or to bite or to lay down?

24 A. No. I believe I said to the suspect let me  
25 see your hands, let me see your hands.

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1 Q. When you peeked over the fence?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. And the suspect began trying to run away?

4 A. Correct. Well, when I looked over the fence  
5 he was already running away, so he didn't begin  
6 running, he was already running away.

7 Q. Okay. What did you do after -- at this point,  
8 then?

9 A. I yelled let me see your hands, let me see  
10 your hands.

11 And then, when I saw them go around the back  
12 of the RV, I said something about my dog to the other  
13 deputies and officers that were there, and then I  
14 jumped over the fence.

15 Q. Okay. You jump over the fence, what did you  
16 intend to do?

17 A. To go chase after the subject with my dog.

18 Q. Did you give my commands to Zina?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Why not?

21 A. Because she knows what to do and it's not  
22 necessary for me to give her any commands. It was more  
23 on my mind to catch up with them.

24 Q. Okay. And when you got over the fence what do  
25 you see?

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1           A.     When I jumped over the fence I look to my  
2 left, I didn't see the subject or my dog anymore. I  
3 took a couple steps forward. I heard something coming  
4 from directly in front of me, however, I was looking to  
5 my left. I was -- I had landed on the top of the hood  
6 of a black truck. When I got to the edge of the black  
7 truck and I heard the noise that was directly in front  
8 of me I looked to my right and saw the subject running  
9 at me with Zina right with him.

10           Q.     Okay. Did that surprise you?

11           A.     Absolutely.

12           Q.     Why?

13           A.     Because I've never had a guy not scream and  
14 run at me with the dog biting him.

15           Q.     Have you ever had people try to run away from  
16 the dog?

17           A.     Run away from, yes. But not after they have  
18 been bitten.

19           Q.     So after Zina bites somebody people just sit  
20 down?

21           A.     They give up. Yeah. They don't just sit  
22 down, you know. But, generally -- well, I shouldn't  
23 say give up because that's not true. They are  
24 preoccupied with the dog, basically. I've had people  
25 trying to poke her eyes out, punch her, kick her, choke

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1       her; but not run. That's a better way of saying it.

2       Q.     Okay. How far was the suspect from you?

3            MR. MURPHY: At what point?

4            MR. LACY: Q. When you see him coming at you  
5       and Zina trailing right behind?

6       A.     10 to 15 feet.

7       Q.     Was your weapon drawn at this point?

8       A.     No.

9       Q.     Did you draw your weapon at this point?

10      A.     I did.

11      Q.     Did you give any commands?

12      A.     No. I thought I had, but once I got over the  
13       fence I had not given any commands, no.

14      Q.     Okay.

15      A.     And after drawing my weapon I didn't give any  
16       commands.

17      Q.     Did you -- could you tell if he could see you?  
18       Did you guys make eye contact?

19      A.     I don't remember eye contact. I mean I was  
20       right in front of him.

21      Q.     Okay.

22      A.     But, I mean, testifying to what he is  
23       thinking, I don't know. If he saw me, I don't know. I  
24       don't specifically remember locking eye contact with  
25       him, though. I remember more looking down at Zina and

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1 his hands, is what I remember looking at, so I wasn't  
2 looking at his face to even see if he was looking at  
3 me.

4 Q. Were you concerned about his hands?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Why?

7 A. Because hands hurt cops. I mean, if you are  
8 going to harm a cop it's because you have something in  
9 your hand. Knife, gun, bat; whatever it is. So the  
10 first area of my concern with somebody charging at me  
11 with my dog what do they have in their hands?

12 Q. Okay. Did you see anything in his hands?

13 A. I couldn't really see his left hand very well  
14 because it looked like Zina was biting there somewhere,  
15 or attempting to. She was on the left-hand side. And  
16 I remember seeing his right hand reaching down by his  
17 belt buckle.

18 Q. Okay. Did that concern you?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Why?

21 A. Because generally that's where people  
22 illegally carry firearms.

23 Q. So you thought he may have a firearm?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. Did you see a firearm?

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1 A. No, I did not.

2 Q. Did you see anything that appeared to be a  
3 firearm?

4 A. No, but it was dark.

5 Q. So you couldn't see?

6 A. No. I couldn't see anything that appeared to  
7 be a firearm, no.

8 Q. You could see his hand near his waist section?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And so you thought he might be going for a  
11 gun?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. So what did you do?

14 A. So I withdrew my firearm from my thigh rig and  
15 as he continued at me, you know, I feared for my life.

16 I'd never encountered this type of situation  
17 before with somebody charging at me, not making a  
18 sound, with a police dog biting them.

19 So, as he was coming at me, then right where  
20 his waistband is I see a huge burst of light coming out  
21 of the waistband area and I thought he had discharged a  
22 round. And within a split second from seeing that  
23 light I discharged my firearm at the subject.

24 Q. Could the light you saw coming from his waist  
25 been from your gun?

## DEPOSITION OF DEPUTY DEREK THOMS

1 MR. MURPHY: I'm going to object. It calls  
2 for speculation.

3 THE WITNESS: I can actually answer that  
4 because my light is an LED light, which has a blue hue  
5 to it. No, it was not my light.

6 Q. I mean the discharge from your gun, could it  
7 have been --

8 A. I had not discharged my firearm at that point.

9 Q. When you saw this light --

10 A. And it came from him.

11 Q. Okay.

12 So you saw a light at his waist; is that  
13 right?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And right in the center of his waist?

16 A. Right about there.

17 Q. All right.

18                   Was there any overhead light shining on the  
19 area or anything like that?

20 A. No. There was a lightbulb which I believe is  
21 what he ran into, which is what sparked the flash.  
22 There was a light mounted on a pole next to him. And  
23 in between me and him, and as he was running past it --  
24 I believe it was mounted about waist height. And he  
25 hit it and it exploded right in there, right in that

DEPOSITION OF DEPUTY DEREK THOMS

1 area, and I thought it was a firearm. I thought it was  
2 a firearm discharging.

3 Q. Did you hear a shot?

4 A. No. But that's not out of the ordinary.

5 Q. It's not -- what's not out of the ordinary?

6 A. To hear gunshots when you are under that much  
7 stress and fearing for your life.

8 When my partner shot at the other guy I didn't  
9 recall hearing any gunshots. When I shot the dog I  
10 don't real hearing the gunshots. And when I discharged  
11 my firearm at the subject I don't recall hearing loud  
12 gunshots, either.

13 Q. Have you ever been diagnosed with PTSD?

14 A. I have not been.

15 Q. Have you ever been treated for any anxiety or  
16 psychological disorder?

17 A. No, I have not.

18 Q. Okay. How many times did you fire your  
19 weapon?

20 A. I believe it was six to eight times.

21 Q. After the first shot did you still feel  
22 threatened?

23 A. Yes. He was still coming at me.

24 Q. How fast was he coming at you?

25 A. I mean I don't know how fast he was running,

## DEPOSITION OF DEPUTY DEREK THOMS

1 it seemed really fast at the time, you know.

2 Q. After the first shot how much closer had he  
3 gotten to you, or was he still at the ten or fifteen  
4 feet range?

5 A. No. When I made my first shot he was within  
6 five feet from me. So he was still coming at me the  
7 whole way until I fired my last shot.

8 Q. Okay. So when you fired your first shot he  
9 was within five feet of you?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And he continued coming the whole way?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. How close was he at the time of your last  
14 shot?

15 A. It happened so fast, but I believe it was  
16 basically right underneath me, 'cause I was standing on  
17 top of the car and he was underneath me. I believe he  
18 even hit the car right at my feet and then fell to the  
19 left, to the RV and truck. But he was like literally  
20 right there, touchable.

21 Q. So you were still on top of the car?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Had you notice any of your supporting officers  
24 had hopped the fence as well?

25 A. I didn't notice. I was too focused on him

DEPOSITION OF DEPUTY DEREK THOMS

1 running at me.

2 Q. Okay. Did you have any understanding between  
3 the second and third shots about whether or not he  
4 still presented a danger to you?

5 A. Up until the last shot I took I felt that he  
6 presented a danger to me. And once I saw him start to  
7 fall is when I stopped because I wanted to reassess, to  
8 see if he was still a danger to me.

9 Q. Okay. So that was after the six to eight  
10 shots?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So you did not reassess in between the shots?

13 A. No. Because he was still coming at me, so I  
14 didn't stop moving and reassess because he was coming  
15 right at me.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. So when he stopped and started to fall down to  
18 the ground is when I took the opportunity to reassess  
19 the situation.

20 Q. Okay. You know that this person's name was  
21 Jacorey Calhoun?

22 A. I do.

23 Q. Had you ever run into this man before?

24 A. I had not.

25 Q. Had you ever heard of him before?

DEPOSITION OF DEPUTY DEREK THOMS

1 A. I did not.

2 Q. You had no prior interactions with him?

3 A. I did not.

4 Q. Did you have an understanding that he was an  
5 armed and dangerous -- had a history of being armed and  
6 dangerous?

7 A. At the time I did not know his past, but I  
8 knew that the reason we -- he was being sought after  
9 was for the home invasion with a pistol whipping.

10 Q. Okay. All right. What do you do immediately  
11 after Mr. Calhoun falls to the ground?

12 A. I jump off the car and reassess.

13 Q. Where do you land?

14 A. Kind of by the driver's side headlight.

15 Q. Okay. The driver's side headlight?

16 A. Correct. On the side of the car, though, not  
17 in front.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. I would have been basically at the fender, but  
20 driver's side fender.

21 Q. What did you notice while you were  
22 reassessing?

23 A. I wanted to make sure that I didn't just kill  
24 my dog because I know that she was right with him but I  
25 felt that my life was in danger enough that if I shot

## DEPOSITION OF DEPUTY DEREK THOMS

1 my own dog that, you know, so be it. I wanted to save  
2 my own life.

3 So I jumped down and looked and I could see  
4 that Zina is still standing. She is now biting his  
5 left leg, I believe. And I look at Mr. Calhoun and I  
6 can see that he has obvious signs of, to me, death.

7 Q. What signs were those?

8 A. He was -- he had blood coming from the top of  
9 his head.

10 Q. You said he had blood coming from the top of  
11 his head?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Did you see anything else coming from the top  
14 of his head?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. What did you see?

17 A. It looked to be brain matter to me.

18 Q. Did that disturb you?

19 A. Yeah, a little bit. But, you know, I mean,  
20 when it comes to, you know, me going home and my life,  
21 you know. But, yeah, I mean it's a tragedy,  
22 absolutely.

23 Q. Did you attempt to give him medical attention?

24 A. I did not at that point in time. It was best  
25 for me because, again, my responsibility is the canine,

DEPOSITION OF DEPUTY DEREK THOMS

1                   THE WITNESS: No. Once I jumped over I  
2 haven't given any commands. After I jumped I had not  
3 given any commands.

4                   MR. LACY: Q. Yes. No commands to either  
5 Mr. Calhoun or Zina; is that right?

6                   A. Correct.

7                   Q. And then you say you saw Mr. Calhoun coming in  
8 between this truck labeled S6 and the trailer; is that  
9 right?

10                  A. Correct.

11                  Q. And then you began to fire; is that right?

12                  A. Not immediately, but soon after. I didn't  
13 have my gun out so I had to draw -- you know, look at  
14 what he's doing and then draw and then lift my gun and  
15 everything.

16                  I mean it was quick but it wasn't immediately.  
17 He was, I would say, right about where the left side of  
18 the trailer is.

19                  Q. Okay.

20                  A. This corner of the trailer is right about  
21 where he was. Right about here, when I started  
22 shooting, right at that corner.

23                  Q. Okay. I'm going to want you to mark that, if  
24 you can.

25                  A. Okay.

## DEPOSITION OF DEPUTY DEREK THOMS

1           A.     I believe one was done -- to my knowledge, one  
2     was done.

3 Q. Did you fill out any portion of it?

4           A.     I did not fill out any report but I was told  
5     it was done.  I can't recall by who but --

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. They said everything would be taken care of.

8 Q. Nothing that you did, though?

9 A. Nothing that I did personally, no.

10 Q. Okay.

11 MR. LACY: Let's mark this as 13.

12 (Exhibit 13 was marked for  
13 identification.)

14 MR. LACY: Q. Do you see what I put before  
15 you marked as Exhibit 13?

16 A. I have.

17 9. Do you recognize that?

18 | A. T. do.

## 19 O. What is it?

20           A.     It's the use of force continuing matrix for  
21           the Alameda County Sheriff's Office

22 | Q You've viewed this before?

23 A Oh, yes

24 Q. You say oh, yes. That suggests to me that you  
25 reviewed it quite a few times.

DEPOSITION OF DEPUTY DEREK THOMS

1 A. Yes. It's been reviewed quite a few times.

2 Q. Have you gotten any trouble and had to review  
3 it more than once or --

4 A. No, it's part of our continual training that  
5 we do. Obviously, in the academy they use this as an  
6 example. You know, it's different for everyone's  
7 agency but because Alameda County Sheriff's Office is  
8 teaching it they use theirs. And through the continual  
9 professional training that we go through, you know,  
10 they bring it up then. Usually in detack (sic).

11 Q. Okay. I want to know, you see these different  
12 boxes here, there's lots of boxes, I guess. But  
13 there's an arrow on the bottom of this page, the bottom  
14 left corner, that says actions of the subject; do you  
15 see that?

16 A. Oh, yes. Okay.

17 Q. And it points to some words starting with  
18 cooperative; is that right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Passive or low level of resistance; is that  
21 right?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. Active resistance or assaultive behavior; is  
24 that right?

25 A. Correct.

DEPOSITION OF DEPUTY DEREK THOMS

1 Q. Life threatening assault or assault likely to  
2 cause great bodily harm?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. All right. Which of these would you  
5 categorize as Mr. Calhoun's behavior at the time you  
6 shot him?

7 A. To me, would be life threatening.

8 Q. Life threatening assault or assault likely to  
9 cause great bodily harm; is that right?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Had he touched you?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Had he said anything to you?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Had he pointed a gun at you?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Did you visibly see any weapon in his hand?

18 A. No.

19 Q. But yet you found that to be life threatening;  
20 is that right?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. Because he was charging at you, in part; is  
23 that right?

24 A. In part, yes.

25 Q. And he wasn't making sounds when the dog was

DEPOSITION OF DEPUTY DEREK THOMS

1       Mr. Calhoun had committed a violent felony; is that  
2       right?

3       A.     That is correct.

4       Q.     The sergeant from Oakland Police Department  
5       told you that he had just pistol-whipped somebody and  
6       fled; is that right?

7       A.     That is correct.

8       Q.     And that they didn't find the gun inside the  
9       car; is that right?

10      A.     Correct.

11      Q.     So you believed that he had a gun on him?

12      A.     Correct.

13      Q.     You did not see a gun on his person, though;  
14     am I right?

15      A.     Correct.

16      Q.     But the sergeant, you would say, led you to  
17     believe that he had a gun on him?

18      A.     Correct.

19      Q.     Did tell you that he thinks he has a gun on  
20     him?

21      A.     I recall him telling me about the  
22     pistol-whipping to advise me that he was wanted for a  
23     crime that was committed with a firearm. I don't  
24     recall him saying I believe he has a gun, or anything  
25     like that. But the information that he committed a

## DEPOSITION OF DEPUTY DEREK THOMS

crime with a gun was relayed to me.

Q. Okay. Did he tell you when that crime may have occurred?

A. No, he didn't. I was --

MR. MURPHY: You answered him.

MR. LACY: Q. Go ahead. You were --

A. I was under the belief that it had just occurred.

Q. What gave you that belief?

A. 'Cause he didn't say it was a month ago. He said that they were chasing a guy for a home invasion with a pistol whipping?

Q. So then it was your mistaken belief that that thing had just occurred that night?

MR. MURPHY: Objection. That's not his mistaken belief to reasonably rely on what an officer communicated to him.

MR. LACY: Sure.

MR. LACY: Q. Did you understand that question?

A. Yeah. Yes. I understand the question.

MR. MURPHY: I'm just objecting to the characterization that it was his error.

THE WITNESS: I don't believe that it was my error.

## DEPOSITION OF DEPUTY DEREK THOMS

1 what that person is thinking, what they are going to  
2 do. In this situation he did flank me from the right  
3 and come right at me. So I'm absolutely happy that I  
4 put her in that situation.

5 Q. Okay. When you were over the fence, before  
6 your had hopped over and jumped onto the truck, you had  
7 peeked over and you could see the suspect, Mr. Calhoun,  
8 running away from behind the truck and headed towards  
9 the area behind the trailer; is that right?

10 A. The RV?

11 Q. The RV.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Did you give any direction to these officers  
14 that were behind you?

15 A. I don't remember what I said. I know that I  
16 said something in regards to my dog. I don't remember  
17 what I said, though.

18 Q. All right. Do you recall giving your  
19 statements and seeing that you saw Mr. Calhoun punching  
20 your dog?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So you could see his hands?

23 A. I could see the elbows coming -- his right  
24 elbow coming back. And I could see her -- him swinging  
25 the dog back and forth and hitting her on stuff that

DEPOSITION OF DEPUTY DEREK THOMS

1 of jumping over the fence. I had radio contact. He  
2 didn't enter a building. And there were sufficient  
3 deputies to provide backup and containment and he was  
4 already in containment. Wasn't increasing the risk to  
5 the public.

6 Q. And I want to talk a little bit about that.

7 A. Basically, none of them -- oh, there's more.

8 Q. And I want to talk a little bit about that.  
9 Something you said I think is important.

10 A. Okay.

11 Q. The suspect was contained.

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. He was in a yard.

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. He had Zina, a very capable and trained  
16 canine, biting him.

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Why was it necessary to hop over until you  
19 knew he was subdued? He sat down or lay down. Why  
20 didn't you tell him hey, lay down and we'll make sure  
21 the dog doesn't bite you anymore. Lay down.

22 A. 'Cause the whole thing was different. He's  
23 running with her, he's not screaming, he's not doing  
24 all the normal things that I'm used to seeing on every  
25 other deployment I've been on. It was different. In

## DEPOSITION OF DEPUTY DEREK THOMS

1 my mind, there was something wrong. Something  
2 different. And, you know, not having been in that  
3 situation, having seen that, I reacted to what I felt  
4 was reasonable.

5 Q. Okay. When you say it was different, what do  
6 you mean?

7 A. He wasn't screaming, he wasn't yelling, he was  
8 running with her. I didn't know where he was going.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. Or what he was doing.

11 Q. If we look back at Exhibit -- I think this is  
12 11. I mean he's pretty confined in this yard here,  
13 right? There's not much area for him to go; would you  
14 agree?

15 A. Well, I don't know any of the stuff that was  
16 back here.

17 Q. Hadn't you searched that area already?

18 A. No. This was all fenced off. I had only  
19 searched this portion and I couldn't see anywhere other  
20 than here. I didn't know what was over in this area.

21 Q. Okay. What did you think was over there?

22 A. I don't know.

23 Q. A yard?

24 A. Yeah. I mean somewhere else he could run.  
25 Now, taking the dog with him, he's not screaming. You

DEPOSITION OF DEPUTY DEREK THOMS

1 MR. LACY: Q. This flash, you said a bulb  
2 popped.

3 A. Correct. That's what I believe --

4 Q. Where was Mr. Calhoun, if you could point to  
5 it on this picture, when you said the bulb popped?

6 A. Right here.

7 Q. Okay. Right here?

8 A. You can see the light socket.

9 Q. The light socket?

10 A. Where there's the light socket hanging.

11 Q. Above number 9, right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. That's where you saw a flash of light?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. Okay. And then you fired?

16 A. Right. But -- yeah.

17 Q. Okay. We'll do one more. 25.

18 (Exhibit 25 was marked for  
19 identification.)

20 MR. LACY: Q. Then I may let you go.

21 MR. MURPHY: Promises promises.

22 MR. LACY: Q. All right. This is 25.

23 You see this document that I put before you?

24 A. I do.

25 Q. It says the Alameda County Sheriff's Office

**DEPOSITION OF DEPUTY DEREK THOMS**

1 general order. And under subject it says use of force;  
2 do you see that?

3 A. Yes, I do.

4 Q. Are you familiar with the policy in the use of  
5 force?

6 A. Yes.

7 MR. MURPHY: And again, I would just note for  
8 the record, that this version appears to be revised a  
9 year following the incident.

10 MR. LACY: Sure.

11 MR. MURPHY: There's a revision date of  
12 July 2014.

13 MR. LACY: Duly noted. Thank you, counsel.

14 MS. LACY: Q. If you look to section F, it's  
15 on page 5 of 11; do you see that there?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. It talks about the use of intermediate force.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And the first use of intermediate force it  
20 talks about is the use of agent's canine; is that  
21 right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Under A, do you see what it says?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Can you read that to me?

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1           A.     The police service canine handler will issue a  
2     verbal warning giving the subject an opportunity to  
3     submit prior to deploying the police service canine,  
4     unless an announcement would be tactically  
5     inappropriate or exigent circumstances exist.

6           Q.     Okay.  Is this consistent with what you  
7     recalled the use of force policy be on the day in  
8     question?

9           A.     Yes.

10          Q.     Okay.  All right.  Give me a minute.  Let me  
11     think of some more stuff.

12           Take a break.

13           (Recess taken from 5:50 p.m. to 5:54  
14           p.m.)

15          MR. LACY:  Q.  Okay.  Are we ready?

16          A.  Ready.

17          Q.  Back on the record.

18           Deputy Thoms, have you done your best to  
19     testify truthfully here today?

20          A.  I have.

21          Q.  And given your testimony in regards to this  
22     conversation with Sergeant whoever from Oakland Police  
23     Department --

24          MR. MURPHY:  Was this the sergeant on the  
25     scene just before the search?